

From: atkins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 1:30am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in regards to an article involving the US v. Microsoft Corporation anti-trust case, posted at < <http://www.beunited.org> >. The article pertains to the fateful demise of Be, Incorporated - a California-based software company that began developing the Be Operating System (BeOS) - and calls me to join a world-wide network of my fellow BeOS companions in making a request of the Department of Justice.

It is very unfortunate that Be, Inc. was unable to obtain the success projected several years ago by myself and many of my computer-savvy colleagues, as well as several well-known critics and analysts of the computer sector. As a user of BeOS, I was able to experience first-hand the numerous superior features of the operating system over any of Microsoft's Windows family of operating systems.

BeOS breathed much more life into my computer than Windows NT or 2000 ever did - it was much faster, more stable, more reliable, and just as user-friendly. After becoming familiar with lightening-fast application launches and superior access to files in BeOS, I was disappointed when I was forced to boot into Windows 2000 to correctly view a webpage in Internet Explorer or open an email attachment with Microsoft Word.

The fact of the matter is that BeOS was predicted to be a major success and somewhat a competitor to Microsoft Windows. It was believed that the operating system would weave itself into the mainstream of the computer market - machines would dual-boot a Microsoft OS and BeOS and the user, depending on his or her needs, would choose which one to boot from a start-up menu. But Microsoft managed to keep that situation from ever happening by using their strong-arm tactics against OEMs that attempted this, as is defined in Section III paragraph 49 of the Findings of Fact - United States of America v. Microsoft Corporation, "when these dual-loaded PC systems are turned on, Windows automatically boots; the user must then take affirmative steps to invoke the BeOS."

To cut to the chase of the matter, Microsoft used its monopoly power to crush Be, Incorporated and halt the development of BeOS. For this, Microsoft should be punished and stripped of its monopoly powers. As is the case in BeOS, Linux, and many other operating systems, services are extended to the user that allow for better application programming, better access to operating system functions, and more cross-platform "open" standards. In BeOS and Linux, I can access the files on my Windows hard-drive partitions; in Windows, when I attempt to access a non-Windows partition, it prompts me to totally wipe the disk so that Windows can recognize the file system. Microsoft uses its monopoly extensively, and therefore it should be forced to adopt more open, universal, cross-platform and operating system independent standards. It should also be punished, as is seen fit, by a stern and unforgiving judge.

I fully trust that you, representing the Department of Justice, will use all of the resources at your disposal to make correct the situation that Microsoft has created using its anti-competitive and monopolistic grip over the computer industry.

Most sincerely,
William Dee Atkins

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